Case Docket No. PHN 17,661

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231

Enclosed for filing is the patent application of Inventor(s): ROBERT A. BARNES AND DIRK PIEPERS

For: PICTURE SIGNAL PROCESSING

### **ENCLOSED ARE:**

Associate Power of Attorney;

Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed therein;

Preliminary Amendment;

Specification (6 Pages of Specification, Claims, & Abstract);

Declaration and Power of Attorney:

(2 Pages of a [X]fully executed [ ]unsigned Declaration);

Drawing (1 sheet of [ ]informal [X]formal sheets); Certified copy of EUROPEAN application Serial No. 99307734.6;

Authorization Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3)

Other: RELATED CASES;

Assignment to U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION.

FEE COMPUTATION

	CLAIMS AS FILED							
a min tune	FOR	NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	BASIC FEE - \$690.00		
tam sand thun	Total Claims	13- 20	=	0	X \$18 =	0.00		
141114	Independent Claims	4 - 3	=	1	X \$78	78.00		
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iii.	TOTAL FILING F	EE	=	\$768.00				

Please charge Deposit Account No. 14-1270 in the amount of the total filing fee indicated above, plus any deficiencies. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required, except the issue fee, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 14-1270.

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application Serial No.

Edward W. Goodman, Reg. No. 28,613

Attorney

(914) 333-9611

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

[X] Express Mail Mailing Label No. EL 458 318 413 U.S.

Date of Deposit

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Name

Send correspondence and papers to Corporate Patent Counsel U.S. Philips Corporation, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591

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# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

ROBERT A. BARNES ET AL.

PHN 17,661

SERIAL NO.:

GROUP ART UNIT:

FILED: CONCURRENTLY

**EXAMINER:** 

PICTURE SIGNAL PROCESSING

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculating the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, insert as a centered heading

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

after the heading, insert at the left margin

-- Field Of The Invention--;

between lines 3 and 5, insert at the left margin

-- Description Of The Related Art--;

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line 7, after "e.g." insert --,-- (comma);
    after "See" insert --International Patent
    Application--;
    after "V" insert --, corresponding to U.S. Patent
    Application Serial No. 08/863,700, filled May 27,
    1997--;
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- between lines 8 and 10, insert as a centered heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;
- lines 13 and 14, delete in their entirety, and insert --picture signal receiver.--;
- between lines 23 and 25, insert as a centered heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--;
- line 25, delete in its entirety, and insert --The drawing
   includes a sole Figure showing a block diagram of
   a (DVD)--;
- Page 2, before line 1, insert as a centered heading
  --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

  - line 25, after "e.g." insert --,-- (comma);
- Page 3, line 4, after "and" insert --,-- (comma);
  - line 5, after "hence" insert --,-- (comma);
  - line 7, after "optimization" insert --,-- (comma);
  - line 14, change "musquito" to --mosquito--;

lines 26 and 27, delete in their entirety, and insert
--corresponding quality indication. The word
"comprising" does not--.

### IN THE ABSTRACT

Page 6, before line 1, delete in its entirety, and insert as a centered heading

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--;

after line 7, delete in its entirety.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A picture signal processing method[,] comprising the steps [of]:

receiving an analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)] and a quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] relating to the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)]; and

processing [(PSP)] the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)] in dependence on the quality indication [(QI1, QI2)].

- 2. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing step [(PSP)] includes a picture enhancement operation.
- 3. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the picture enhancement operation [(PSP)] is a sharpness and/or contrast improving operation.
- 4. (Amended) [A] <u>The</u> method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the picture enhancement operation [(PSP)] is a noise or encoding artifact reduction operation.
- 5. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2) has been obtained] is formed by decoding a digital picture signal [that has been obtained by encoding] having been encoded at a bit-rate and/or at a compression

- 5 ratio and/or at a quantization level, and wherein the quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.
  - 6. (Amended) A picture signal processing device, comprising:

    means for receiving an analog picture signal [(APS1,

    APS2)] and a quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] relating to the analog picture signal; and
  - means [(PSP)] for processing the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)] in dependence on the quality indication [(QI1, QI2)].
  - 7. (Amended) A television receiver [(TV)] comprising:

    [a] the picture signal processing device [(PSP)] as

    claimed in claim 6 for furnishing a processed picture signal; and

    means [(DD)] for displaying the processed picture signal.
  - 8. (Amended) A picture signal supplying method[,] comprising
    the steps [of]:

supplying an analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)]; and supplying a quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] relating to the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)].

- 9. (Amended) [A] The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2) has been obtained] is formed by decoding a digital picture signal [that has been obtained by encoding] having been encoded at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, and wherein the quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.
- 10. (Amended) A picture signal supplying device, comprising:

  means for supplying an analog picture signal [(APS1,
  APS2)]; and

means for supplying a quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] relating to the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)].

11. (Amended) [A] The picture signal supplying device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the picture signal supplying device further [comprising] comprises:

means for decoding [(DEC1, DEC2)] a digital picture signal [that has been obtained by encoding] having been encoded at a bitrate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, to furnish the analog picture signal [(APS1, APS2)], the quality indication [(QI1, QI2)] being the bit-rate and/or the compression

ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.

- [a]  $\underline{\text{the}}$  picture signal supplying device [(DEC1)] as 5 claimed in claim 11.
  - 13. (Amended) A picture signal receiver [(STB),] comprising:

    means [(A2)] for receiving a digital picture signal; and

    [a] the picture signal supplying device [(DEC2)] as

    claimed in claim 11.

#### REMARKS

The specification has been amended in various places to correct typographical and grammatical errors. The specification has also been amended to add section headings.

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, the claims have been amended for clarity.

When the Examiner takes this case up for examination, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be taken into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613

Attorney

Tel.: 914-333-9611

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The invention relates to a picture signal processing method and device, a picture signal supplying method and device, a television receiver, a record player and a picture signal receiver.

It is known to use motion vectors transmitted as part of an MPEG signal both in an MPEG decoder and in post-processing circuitry to enhance an MPEG decoder output signal, e.g. by doubling the field-rate. See WO-A-97/46022, section V (attorneys' docket PHN 16.112).

It is, inter alia, an object of the invention to provide an improved picture signal processing. To this end, the invention provides a picture signal processing method and device, a picture signal supplying method and device, a television receiver, a record player and a picture signal receiver as defined in the independent claims. Advantageous embodiments are defined in the dependent claims.

In a picture signal processing method in accordance with an aspect of the invention, an analog picture signal is processed in dependence on a quality indication relating to the analog picture signal and received together with the analog picture signal. Preferably, the analog picture signal has been obtained by decoding a digital picture signal that has been obtained by encoding at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, wherein the quality indication is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.

These and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from and elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

The drawing shows a configuration comprising embodiments of a (DVD) record player, a picture signal receiver (set-top box) and a television receiver in accordance with the present invention.

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A record player RP comprises a decoder DEC1 (such as an MPEG decoder, alternatives are possible) for decoding a digital picture signal retrieved from a storage medium such as a digital versatile disk (DVD). Other digital record media, such as tape, are alternatively possible. The record player RP may have an antenna input for receiving a digital picture signal. In that manner, the decoder DEC1 can be used both for stored signals and for signals received from air (or thru cable).

In accordance with the present invention, the decoder DEC1 does not just supply a decoded first analog picture signal APS1, but also a first quality indication QI1corresponding to the first analog picture signal APS1. Preferably, the first quality indication QI1 is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level at which the digital picture signal has been encoded and/or other information about the encoding or decoding, such as information about the level of compression via inverse quantization process and/or quantizer matrix (for intra and non-intra pictures) when the default ones are not used and/or intra-dc-precision and/or information when a decoding error happened.

The drawing further shows a picture signal receiver in the form of a set-top box STB comprising a reader for a smart card SC and a decoder DEC2 corresponding to the decoder DEC1 for decoding a digital picture signal received from an antenna A2 or thru cable. The decoder DEC2 supplies a second analog picture signal APS2 and a corresponding second quality indication QI2.

A television receiver TV includes inputs for the analog picture signals APS1,

APS2 and the corresponding quality indications QI1, QI2. The connections between the record player RP and the TV set may be thru a well-known SCART cable for a parallel transmission of the analog picture signal APS1/2 and the corresponding quality indication QI1/2, or thru a serial connection such as USB. As a further alternative, the quality indication Q1/2 may be transmitted within the corresponding analog picture signal APS1/2, e.g. in a teletext line of the analog picture signal APS1/2. A switch S1 selects the first analog picture signal APS1 or the second analog picture signal APS2 to obtain a selected analog picture signal. A switch S2 selects the first quality indication QI1 or the second quality indication QI2 to obtain a selected quality indication. The switches S1, S2 may belong to a single electronic switch unit. The selected analog picture signal is subjected to a picture signal processing PSP, such as a picture signal enhancement like a peaking operation, noise reduction operation, MPEG artifact

reduction operation, coring operation or histogram operation. The picture signal processing PSP is controlled by a picture signal control in dependence on the selected analog picture

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signal and the selected quality indication. The resulting processed picture signal is displayed on a display device DD.

The invention is based on the recognition that sending a quality indication with an analog picture signal allows a TV to determine the characteristics of the source material and hence make an informed selection of algorithm. A better picture quality will result from the application of a more appropriate processing to the signal. Giving a picture signal processing unit the information it needs to enable it to do the appropriate optimization prevents it from "optimizing" a picture that is already OK, or from "optimizing" it in the wrong way. For example, if the quality of the analog picture signal is low, because the digital picture signal from which the analog picture signal has been retrieved had been encoded at a low quantization level, a low bit-rate and/or a high compression ratio, a picture signal enhancement operation such as a peaking or histogram operation to improve sharpness and/or contrast would only render the blocking artifacts more visible. So, if the quality indication indicates a low quality, a peaking operation is preferably switched off. On the other hand, musquito noise present in a low-quality signal could be reduced by appropriately adjusting a noise reduction operation forming part of the picture signal processing PSP in dependence upon the quality indication. The TV can accommodate different sources, with different (and possibly dynamically changing) signal qualities. While in the embodiment, the TV receiver has two inputs (APS1, QI1) and (APS2, QI2), it is not necessary to have two sources in the system for the invention to have a benefit.

It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. The record player RP may have recording facilities, and the notion record player includes any apparatus that is able to play and decode a recorded digital picture signal to obtain an analog picture signal plus a corresponding quality indication. In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claim. The word "comprising" does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a claim. The word "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements. The invention can be implemented by means of hardware comprising several distinct elements, and by means of a suitably programmed computer. In the device claim enumerating several means, several of these means can be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage.

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CLAIMS:

- A picture signal processing method, comprising the steps of:
   receiving an analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) and a quality indication (QI1,
   QI2) relating to the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2); and
   processing (PSP) the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) in dependence on the
   quality indication (QI1, QI2).
- 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing step (PSP) includes a picture enhancement operation.
- 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the picture enhancement operation (PSP) is a sharpness and/or contrast improving operation.
  - 4. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the picture enhancement operation (PSP) is a noise or encoding artifact reduction operation.
  - 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) has been obtained by decoding a digital picture signal that has been obtained by encoding at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, and wherein the quality indication (QI1, QI2) is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.
  - 6. A picture signal processing device, comprising:

    means for receiving an analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) and a quality indication (QI1, QI2) relating to the analog picture signal; and
- 25 means (PSP) for processing the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) in dependence on the quality indication (QI1, QI2).
  - 7. A television receiver (TV) comprising:

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a picture signal processing device (PSP) as claimed in claim 6 for furnishing a processed picture signal; and

means (DD) for displaying the processed picture signal.

- 5 8. A picture signal supplying method, comprising the steps of: supplying an analog picture signal (APS1, APS2); and supplying a quality indication (QI1, QI2) relating to the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2).
- 9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) has been obtained by decoding a digital picture signal that has been obtained by encoding at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, and wherein the quality indication (QI1, QI2) is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.
  - 10. A picture signal supplying device, comprising:

    means for supplying an analog picture signal (APS1, APS2); and

    means for supplying a quality indication (QI1, QI2) relating to the analog

    picture signal (APS1, APS2).
  - 11. A picture signal supplying device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising: means for decoding (DEC1, DEC2) a digital picture signal that has been obtained by encoding at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, to furnish the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2), the quality indication (QI1, QI2) being the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level and/or other information about the encoding or decoding.
    - 12. A record player (RP), comprising:

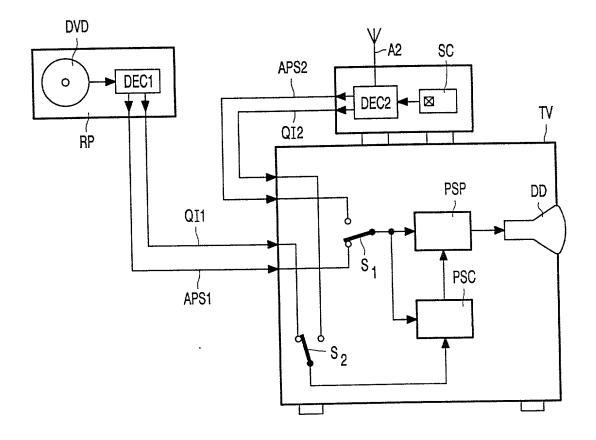
      means for retrieving a digital picture signal from a record (DVD); and
      a picture signal supplying device (DEC1) as claimed in claim 11.
    - 13. A picture signal receiver (STB), comprising:
      means (A2) for receiving a digital picture signal; and
      a picture signal supplying device (DEC2) as claimed in claim 11.

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In a picture signal processing method, an analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) is processed (PSP) in dependence on a quality indication (QI1, QI2) relating to the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) and received together with the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2). Preferably, the analog picture signal (APS1, APS2) has been obtained from a digital picture signal that has been encoded at a bit-rate and/or at a compression ratio and/or at a quantization level, wherein the quality indication (QI1, QI2) is the bit-rate and/or the compression ratio and/or the quantization level.

(Fig.)



# **DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: PHN 17.661 US

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Inventor

Residence &

Post Office Address

Citizenship

PIEPERS

Brugge

Herfstlaan 8

Street

City

I believe I am	the original, first and so	ole inventor (if	only one n	ed below next to my nam ame is listed below) or a which a patent is sought	ın original, firs		plural			
		as App	olication Se		and was amended on (if					
amended by the amend I acknowledge Code of Federal Regul- I hereby claim inventor's certificate list date before that of the	dment(s) referred to about the duty to disclose in ations, §1.56(a). If oreign priority benefits ted below and have also	ove. formation which s under Title 3 o identified be cority is claime	ch is materi 35, United S elow any for ed:	nts of the above-identified ial to patentability of this states Code, § 119 of an reign application for pate PPLICATION(S)	application in	n accordance with lication(s) for pater	Title 37,			
COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING				PRIORITY CLAI					
Europe	99307734.6		(DATE, MONTH, YEAR) 30 September 1999			UNDER 35 U.S.	0. 119			
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1,56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:  PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)										
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and belief are believed like so made are punish willful false statements POWER OF ATTORNE	to be true; and further thable by fine or imprison may jeopardize the validate.  EY: As a named inventors in the Patent and Training.  No. 27,677	that these statenment, or both idity of the apport, I hereby apport, I hereby apport, I	tements we h, under Se plication or ppoint the fo	nowledge are true and the made with the knowledge to 1001 of Title 18 of any patent issued there ollowing attorney(s) and/d therewith. (list name a	edge that willf the United Ston. or agent(s) to	iul false statements tates Code and tha prosecute this ap	s and the at such			
SEND CORRESPOND	ENCE TO: Corporate F	Patent Counse	el;	DIRECT TELEPHONE	CALLS TO:		<del></del>			
U.S. Philips Corporatio	n; 580 white Plains Roa	ad;	(name and telephone No.)							
Tarrytown, NY 10591			(914) 332-0222							
Dated: 24 Augus	t 2000	(n·	ventor's Siç	gnature: Robe	rtA	Ban	~			
Full Name of in	Last Name		First Name Middle N			ame				
Inventor BARNES			Robert A. State of Foreign Country Country			untry of Citizenship				
Residence & City Citizenship Caterham			reat Britain		Great Britain					
Post Office Address	Cì	ity	urrey CR3 5UJ		rate of Country Zip Code					
Dated:	35 Townend		ventor's Sig		3, 541 511ta					
Full Name of in	Last Name	Fi	rst Name		Middle Nam	e				

Dirk

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State of Foreign Country

Country of Citizenship

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State of Country

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# **DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO .: PHN 17.661 US

Post Office Address

Street

Herfstlaan 8

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:
My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled										
"Picture signal proce	essing"									
the specification of wh  is attached hereto.										
was filed on as Application Serial No and was amended on										
applicable).										
	e that I have reviewed ar idment(s) referred to abo		and the conter	nts of the above-identifie	d specification	, including the cia	ims, as			
l acknowledg	e the duty to disclose int		vhich is materi	ial to patentability of this	application in	accordance with	Title 37,			
Code of Federal Regu	lations, §1.56(a).			,	.,					
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing										
	application on which pri	iority is clai	med:			, 00, 4,,00,10	, u			
		PRIOR	FOREIGN A	PPLICATION(S)						
COUNTRY	COUNTRY APP. NUMBER DATE OF FILING PRIORITY CLAIMED (DATE, MONTH, YEAR) PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119									
Europe	99307734.6		30 September 1999			YES	0. 1.0			
I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1,56(a) which occurred between the filling date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filling date of this application:  PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)										
APPLICATION SERIA	L NUMBER	FILING DATE			STATUS (PA ABANDONEI	TENTED, PENDI	NG,			
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.										
	EY: As a named inventoess in the Patent and Tra						olication			
Algy Tamoshunas, Reg. No. 27,677 Jack E. Haken, Reg. No. 26,902										
SEND CORRESPOND	DENCE TO: Corporate P	atent Cour	nsel;	DIRECT TELEPHONE	CALLS TO:					
U.S. Philips Corporation	on; 580 white Plains Roa	ad;		(name and telephone I	No.)					
Tarrytown, NY 10591	<del></del>	<del></del>		(914) 332-0222						
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Full Name of in	Last Name		First Name		Middle Name					
Inventor Residence &	BARNES		Robert State of Force	ion Country	A. Country of Citizenship					
Citizenship	City Caterham	State of Fore			Great Britain					
Post Office Address	Street		City		State of Cour	ountry Zip (				
Dated:	35 Townend		Caterham, Surrey CR3 5UJ Grea							
Dated: 7 September 2000 Inventor's Signature:										
Full Name of in	Last Name PIEPERS		First Name		Middle Name					
Inventor		Dirk		Country of Citizenski						
Residence & City Citizenship Brugge			State of Forei	ign Country	Country of Citizenship					

B-8200 Brugge

State of Country

Belgium

Zip Code

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
In re Application of Atty. Docket
- ROBERT A. BARNES ET AL.
PHN 17,661

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

PICTURE SIGNAL PROCESSING

Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

### APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATES

Sir:

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The undersigned Attorney of Record hereby revokes all prior appointments (if any) of Associate Attorney(s) or Agent(s) in the above-captioned case and appoints:

#### EDWARD W. GOODMAN

(Registration No. 28,613)

c/o U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION, Intellectual Property Department, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, his Associate Attorney(s)/Agent(s) with all the usual powers to prosecute the above-identified application and any division or continuation thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION AND THE LETTERS PATENT WHEN GRANTED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY OF RECORD.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Marion, Reg. 32,266 Attorney of Record

Dated at Tarrytown, New York . on September 28, 2000.